

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 /111 W  
-----092593 071801Z /40

R 070715Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1343  
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
USINT HAVANA  
AMEMBASSY MASERU  
AMEMBASSY MBABANE  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 3207

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PDIP, PGOV, LS  
SUBJECT: SAG COMMENTS ON CUBAN MISSION TO LESOTHO

REF: MASERU 1180

1. LOCAL PRESS ACCOUNTS REPORT THAT SAG MINISTER OF DEFENSE, P.W. BOTHA, COMMENTING ON THE REPORTS OF A CUBAN MISSION TO LESOTHO, SAID ON MAY 31 THAT WHILE CUBANS WERE IN AFRICA "WITH THE PURPOSE THEY HAD IN MIND...THERE CAN NEVER BE PEACE." HE ADDED THAT, "AS I HAVE NOT RECEIVED CONFIRMATION OF THE REAL REASON FOR THE CUBAN VISIT TO LESOTHO, ALL I AM PREPARED TO SAY AT THIS STAGE IS THAT ANY AFRICAN STATE THAT MAKES USE OF CUBAN AID PLAYS WITH FIRE."

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2. SUBSEQUENT TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CUBAN VISIT AND A STATEMENT BY THE LESOTHO PRIME MINISTER THAT THE CUBAN MISSION HAD BEEN PEACEFUL AND NOT INTENDED TO SET UP MILITARY MISSIONS, FOREIGN MINISTER PIK BOTHA TOLD REPORTERS THAT HE EXPECTED NO FORMAL TIES BETWEEN LESOTHO AND CUBA AND DIDN'T WANT TO DICTATE TO SOUTH

AFRICA'S NEIGHBORS. ON THE OTHER HAND, BOTHA ADDED,  
IF THE DEEDS OF OTHER COUNTRIES THREATENED THE INTERESTS  
OF SOUTH AFRICA, IT WAS HER RIGHT TO MAKE HERSELF HEARD.

3. COMMENT: P.W. BOTHA'S REMARKS CAME PRIOR TO ANY  
OFFICIAL LESOTHO REACTIONS ON THE CUBAN VISIT AND PIK  
BOTHA, IN LIGHT OF THE WAY THE GOL PLAYED THE EVENT,  
APPARENTLY INTENDED TO SOFTEN THE IMPACT OF HIS COLLEAGUE'S  
PREVIOUS REMARKS. THE MESSAGE, HOWEVER, DID NOT CHANGE,  
I.E., THAT THE GOL CAN PLAY ITS "TOUGH GUY" STANCE ONLY  
SO FAR AND THAT SOUTH AFRICA WILL PROTECT ITS OWN  
PERCEIVED INTERESTS VIS-A-VIS ITS NEIGHBORS.  
EDMONDSON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, VISITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978PRETOR03207  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Film Number:** D780238-0301  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 MASERU 1180  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2454100  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SAG COMMENTS ON CUBAN MISSION TO LESOTHO  
**TAGS:** PDIP, PGOV, OTRA, LS, CU, SF, (BOTH, P W)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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